

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 ACDA-07 /090 W
-----061300Z 082555 /40

R 061200Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6507

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3993

FOR IO BILL MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNRWA, SREF, IS, JO, SY, LE
SUBJECT: ISRAELI VIEW OF UNRWA

REF: STATE 126828, TEL AVIV 3992

1. WE DECIDED AGAINST SUGGESTING TO SENATOR STONE THAT HE SEEK THE VIEW OF GOI OFFICIALS ABOUT UNRWA. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY TEND TO TAKE A DIM VIEW OF UNRWA'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL STABILITY AND WOULD BE LIKELY TO REINFORCE THE SENATOR'S CONCERN ABOUT UNRWA'S ROLE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP IN SENATOR STONE'S DISCUSSIONS HERE.

2. ON FEBRUARY3, IN A CONVERSATION AN EMBOFF HAD WITH COL DAVID FARHI (ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO THE COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES) AND COL SASSON LEVI (DEPUTY COORDINATOR OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES), FARHI ARGUED THAT THE GOI COULD PROVIDE THE ENTIRE RANGE OF SERVICES CURRENTLY GIVEN BY UNRWA, AND AT LOWER COST. MOREOVER, THE GREAT BULK OF SERVICES IN GAZA WERE CIVIL-
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ADMINISTRATION-PROVIDED, RATHER THAN UNRWA-SUPPLIED. AS FOR ITS RELATIONSHIP TO STABILITY, THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN GAZA OR THE WEST BANK IF UNRWA WENT OUT OF OPERATION. THEY SAID THAT THEY HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO USE IN THE EVENT UNRWA WENT OUT OF BUSINESS AND GOI HAD TO TAKE OVER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. GOI OFFICIALS IN GENERAL HAVE NOT HESITATED TO CITE UNRWA'S BLEMISHES: ITS INFLATED REFUGEE ROLLS, SALES OF COMMODITIES, DUPLICATION, AND THE ORGANIZATION'S PERPETUATION OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT UNRWA COULD IN FACT BE DISPENSED WITH, WITH FUNDS FOR REHABILITATION AND UPKEEP BEING GIVEN TO THE STATES IN WHICH THE REFUGEES RESIDE. JORDAN AND SYRIA, THEY SAID, ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF HANDLING WHATEVER PROBLEMS MIGHT ARISE FROM THIS CHANGE. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LEBANON'S DIFFICULTIES COULD BE MORE SUBSTANTIAL, BUT DUE MORE TO THE GOL'S INABILITY TO CONTROL ITS PALESTINIANS THAN TO THE UNRWA ISSUE PER SE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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